# telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

APRIL 1, 2015

VOL 48 Issue 8

## WHERE IS THE ANTENNA?

Amateur operators in the New York City area learned long ago about the magnetic features of automotive antennas. That magnetic characteristic attracted things. Specifically attracted were thieves interested in breaking into the vehicles underneath the antennas. For they knew that an antenna on top of a car meant radios and other electronic equipment were inside, ready



for the stealing. Such equipment could be turned into dollars for the criminal elements.

For that reason, amateurs in larger metropolitan areas became reluctant to mount antennas of any kind on their autos. Temporary magnetic antennas began to proliferate, while those requiring a hole in the vehicle disappeared. Even worse, some amateurs began relying solely on portable units for their communications.

Minds began to work on the targeted task of developing an antenna that would not attract unwanted attention. One enterprising amateur, familiar with automotive construction came up with an idea. Each car has at least four movable metal pieces independent of the body; specifically the hood, trunk, and doors. Upon examination, it became evident that the hood was connected by only three points: each hinge and the front latch. Aside from that, the hood rested upon rubber bumpers along the remainder of its perimeter.

(Continued on page 6)

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#### CLUB OFFICERS

President Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK

Vice President Scott Barto, KB2KOL

Secretary Mettieirene Wagner, KD2DFQ

Financial Sec'y Judy Levan, N2TEZ

Treasurer John Leitten, KA2RFT

Director (1 yr.) Jon Hall, KC2QKB

Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY Director (2 yr.)

Clubhouse Chair Pat Groom, KC2VWG

Telstar Editor Tomm Dean, KA2NXY

Webmaster Don Niles, K2PMC

### BLUE AND UNDERLINED

When you see something in *Telstar* in blue letters and underlined, that means it is an Internet link. Hold the "Control" key and click on the link to open.

Try it!



sample link (control + click)

#### APRIL MEETING

For this month's meeting, Ken Pokigo, KC2AYK will demonstrate the use of the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) to make amateur contacts all over the world with a portable 2 meter handheld.

For over a month, STARS members have been using the newly installed IRLP capability on the STARS Hamburg repeater to

establish connections to remote repeaters.

Bring your 2 meter portable and be ready to try these connections for your amateur radio enjoyment.



#### WE GOOFED

John Leitten, KA2RFT found an error in last month's item about "CLUB REPEATERS". He points out that we already have a UHF repeater.

The repeater operates on 442.325 MHz, with an input of 447.325 MHz, PL tone 107.2 Hz. It is linked to the Club's 2 meter repeater at the Colden tower.

We take pried in getting things rite. If you see something ink or wrecked, let us know.

wb2elw@verizon.net

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### STARS MEETINGS

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STARS meetings are usually at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center, 200 Prospect Avenue ★ (near Hawkins Avenue) in Hamburg.

ightharpoonup This month's meeting will be on April 2<sup>ND</sup>, at 7:00 ightharpoonupPM, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center.

All are welcome,

The STARS board usually meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse, just west of the Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.  $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

★ This month, the Board will meet at 7:00 PM on April 23rd, at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse.

All members are welcome to attend.

#### CLUB NETS

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**Tuesdays** 7:30 PM 147.09 MHz (repeater)

Saturdays 3.925 MHz +/- QRM 10:00 AM

Sundays 9:30 AM 28.380 MHz

Sundays 10:30 AM 147.09 MHz (repeater)

#### HOW DO I GET A PAPER COPY OF MY LICENSE?

#### by Thomas Kocialski, KC2CAG

As you may have heard by now, effective 17 February 2015, the FCC is no longer automatically issuing paper copies of amateur radio licenses. This means that if you are a newly licensed ham, a ham who has upgraded to a new license class, or a ham who has renewed a license, changed and address, etc. you will no longer routinely get a paper copy of your license. So, let's say you want a copy to post prominently at your operating location, to carry in your wallet, to use at a Volunteer Examiner session as part of the paperwork to be submitted, or for any other reason you think of.

There are three ways you can get a paper copy of your license.

First, if all you need is a "reference copy" of a license (your own license, or the license of any other ham radio operator), you start by going to the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) search page:

http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp. Once there, type in the call sign for the license of interest and click on "search." The search results page will yield some basic data for the licensee. On that page, click on the highlighted call sign to get to a page with even greater detail. Near the top of the page is a link to "Reference Copy." Clicking on that link will get you a .pdf file of the reference copy which can be printed out easily, though with a watermark stating that it is a reference copy.

If you need an official copy of your license, and not a reference copy, you will need to go to the License Manager login page:

https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp

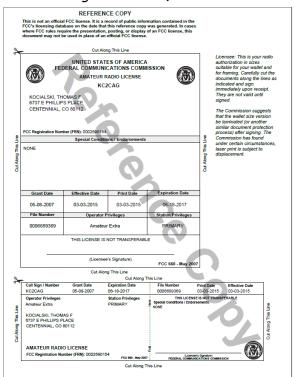
Once there, fill in the FRN number from your license and your password. Oops! No password? Forgot your password? No problem. This is the page you also use to log in and establish a password or retrieve an existing one. Once you are on that page, you can click on

the link to obtain a duplicate copy of your license.

Note that you will be walked through multiple bureaucratic steps before you can finally complete your "application" to receive a duplicate license!

If, however, you wish to indicate a preference to receive paper copies of your license in the future, go to the License Manager login page as above. Once you log in, you will be able to indicate a preference to receive a paper copy. I did this and in a couple of days I received an email from the FCC with a link, good for 30 days, that took me directly to a web page that automatically downloaded a "pdf" file of an official copy of my license. This looks exactly like the "reference copy" except that the watermark reads "official copy." Given that I had indicated a preference for a paper copy of my license, I am assuming that the next time I change my address, renew my license, etc. I will automatically receive a real paper copy. I can only hope so, right?

(editor's note: **Tom, KC2CAG**, is a former **STARS** member now living in Colorado.)



#### TUESDAY NIGHT NET

Scott Barto, KB2KOL, reports that the STARS
Tuesday Night Roundtable net is back and we need

YOU to check in. Find it every Tuesday at 7:30 PM
local time on our 2 meter repeater - 147.090 MHz, PL
tone of 151.4 or 107.2 Hz.

After taking check-ins, brief club announcements are given, followed by comments on the "topic of the evening." You may even hear check-ins from some of our "snow-bird" members via IRLP. Please join us and bring a friend.

#### HOW IS YOUR WAS?

John Leitten, KA2RFT, brought a web site to our attention for those amateurs seeking their "Worked All States" (WAS) certificate. Members could use the club station to work this net for their WAS.

www.omiss.net/Facelift/PDF/OMISS-Brochure.pdf

#### STARS WEBSITE

There have been many changes/updates on the **STARS** website. Check it out at: <a href="www.wb2elw.net">www.wb2elw.net</a>.

Thanx to Don Niles, K2PMC, for his excellent work.

### FREE EQUIPMENT

Enjoy restoring antique equipment? Free to a good home: an R-383/CRD-2A Army Signal Corps HF Receiver, ca. 1950. In the usual ratty "garage shelf" condition. Needs extensive restoration. Open chassis, no cabinet - intended for rack mounting. Ten octal tubes - a real "boat-anchor". A real "freebie" to someone interested in bringing it back to life. Offered by Dick, K2RDT, from Moravia, NY.

Contact person: Scott, KB2KOL, at kb2kol@arrl.net

## FROM YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT:

On Sunday, March 8, 2015 the Nike Base chairman and some members of the Board of Directors held an impromptu miniwork party at the clubhouse to clean, organize, and dispose of accumulated surplus goods. It was highly successful, as the Nike Base is now looking quite nice. Some items that were not fit for the



dumpster will be taken to a metal scrap yard, or listed on eBay to put some money in the **STARS** treasury.

The focus for the spring will be to reattach a VHF/UHF vertical antenna to the building or side mounted on the tower for local work, and mount VHF/UHF yagis to the tower for long distance capabilities. We are only steps away from a fully functional Class A clubhouse shack.

Although we understand that members often want to donate equipment to the club, <u>PLEASE DO NOT</u>

BRING EQUIPMENT TO THE CLUBHOUSE TO

<u>DONATE</u> unless you have received approval from the Nike Base Chairman or a member of the Board of Directors. One of these members would be happy to consider the equipment you would like to donate. We do not have much storage space and we can not continue to accumulate clutter. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Special thanks to those who were at the work party: Pat Groom, KC2VWG; Jon Hall, KC2QKB; John Leitten, KA2RFT; and Scott Barto, KB2KOL.

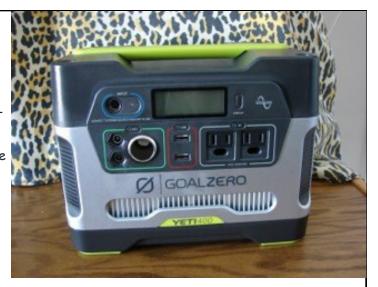
73 for now.

Scott, KB2KOL

#### SOLAR GENERATOR

#### by Paul Blachowski, WA2DII

Do you know what it is? Well, in simple terms, it's a battery. It can be charged with solar cells, 12 volt DC, or 110 VAC. It is quiet, not like a gas generator. They have a solar controller, 12 volt output, USB 5 volt output for charging cell phones, and an AC inverter output. I have the GOAL Zero Yeti 400 which has a 33 AH battery in it. It will run or charge my laptop in the field. They make a Yeti 150 for half the price but it has a 22 AH battery in it and is limited. AC Inverter is only 80



watts. Mine is 300 watts with a pure sine wave. These are pricey, but look at how compact it is. Yes you can make your own for less, but it won't be as nice and compact. These are great for field day or when power goes out. Good for Camping when you are off grid, and will keep your phone charged, as well as your 12 volt lights!

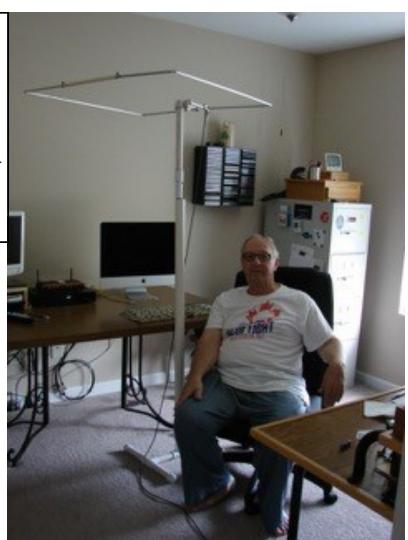
Learn more about them at the Goal Zero website: <a href="http://goalzero.com/">http://goalzero.com/</a>

# OPERATING VHF CONTESTS

by Paul Blachowski, WA2DII

You don't need a fancy antenna system to operate. Here is mine: a six meter loop up six feet in my room. I talked to TX, LA, FL, & GA. So you see, any type of antenna will work. Be creative!





#### WHERE IS THE ANTENNA?

(continued from page 1)

Of course, each hinge and the front latch were of metal on metal construction. So, they were electrically connected. But he reasoned that if he could separate the metal connections, the hood could be considered a separate piece of metal. If possible, the hood could serve as a radiating element while the rest of the car provided the ground plane. That's when he discovered nylon hardware, of a material that would not conduct a charge.

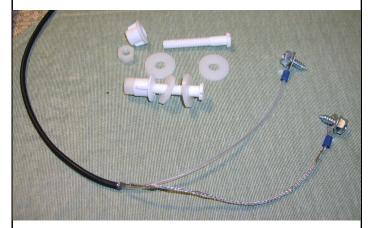
By using nylon hardware for each hinge, and nylon washers for the hood latch, the hood would be electronically independent of the body. The attachment of coaxial cable elements, center conductor to hood, and braid to the body, might just let the hood act as an antenna. He tried it, and found an excellent replacement for standard antennas. More importantly, the fact that a car had an antenna system was invisible to the criminal element.

For each hood hinge, a nylon bolt, two wide washers and two nut were required (one as a locking nut). In replacing the metal bolts, care should be taken, as many hoods have powerful springs to support the weight of the hood when opened.

Connecting the antenna cable was easily accomplished with the use of sheet metal screws in the hood and the body. The nature of sheet metal screws assured a good conducting joint for the radio signal.

A typical automotive hood is approximately two meters long across a diagonal. While not a quarter wave, the other corners serve as nodes to make a more resonant antenna. The antenna is not unidirectional, the favored directions are at a forty-five degree angle from straight ahead.

More and more of these "new" antennas are popping up all over the urban areas.



Nylon hinge hardware and sheet metal screws for coaxial cable



Upcoming training is listed in the table below. For more information, and to register for a training session, use this link:

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/buf/skywarnt.htm

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	SPONSOR	CONTACT
Tuesday April 7, 2015	Lancaster Office of Emergency Management	525 Pavement Rd Lancaster, NY 14043	Lancaster Amateur Radio Club	
Monday April 13, 2015	Orleans County Emergency Management	14064 County House Rd Albion, NY 14411	Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	Terry Cook 585-589-6362

#### HAMFESTS

#### 04/18/2015 Drumlins Hamfest

**Location:** VFW Memorial Post 6778

4306 Route 31 Palmyra, NY

Sponsor: Drumlins Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.DrumlinsARC.us

#### 04/19/2015 Orange County Hamfest

Location: Walkill Community Center

2 Wes Warren Drive Middletown, NY

Sponsor: Orange County Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://www.ocarc-ny.org

(control + click on name for full information)

#### STARS 2015 GOALS

Upgrade WB2ELW website	
Install an IRLP node	
Implement UHF repeater	
Install a satellite antenna	
Complete N1MM linking	
Rebuild antenna interface box	
Offer several monthly programs	
Conduct a "Homebrew Build Project"	
Participate in Field Day	
Participate in the NYS QSO Contest	
Participate in additional contests	
Conduct 1 major fundraiser	
Participate in Hamburg's Burgerfest	

# Hamvention® 2015

# **Homebrew Radio**

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## www.hamvention.org

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May 15-17, 2015 Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio

#### AREA EXAM SITES

#### 04/01/2015 Springville



Sponsor: CCARET

Location: Bertrand Chaffee Hospital

East Main Street (NYS Rte 39)

Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 04/04/2015 **Jamestown**

Sponsor: CARS

Location: Prendergast Library

509 Cherry Street 2nd fl conf rm

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 04/08/2015 Niagara Falls

Sponsor: Niagara Radio Club, Inc.
Location: Venture Forthe, Inc.
3900 Packard Road

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 04/11/2015 North Tonawanda

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas

Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters

495 Zimmerman Street - Training Rm

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 04/15/2015 West Seneca



Sponsor: STARS

Location: West Seneca CERT Operations Center

900 Mill Road

Time: 7:00 PM (No walk-ins)

#### 04/18/2015 Rochester NY



Sponsor: Rochester ARA

Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

#### 04/26/2015 Geneseo

Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA

Location: Livingston County Government Center

2 Court Street Rm 205

Time: 5:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

(control-click on City for more info)



: (no fee charged)

## TESTING NEEDS

- Legal photo ID (a driver's license is excellent!)
- Current license and/or CSCE documents, if any, and a non-returnable photocopy of each
- Federal Registration Number (FRN); if none, then Social Security Number (SSN)
- \$15 in cash, check or money order
- Two #2 pencils with erasers, and a pen
- Calculators are permitted as long as any programming has been cleared.

(more info)

#### TESTING RESULTS

STARS conducted a Volunteer Examination session on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Hamburg Youth Center.

Eight candidates appeared, taking ten examinations. All candidates passed all examinations taken.

Congratulations to these new amateurs:

James Keller	KD2IJJ	Technician	
Aaron Price	KD2IJK	General	
Ronald Runo	KD2IJL	Technician	
Douglas Schenk	KD2IJM	Technician	
William Sylvia	KD2IJN	Technician	

Also, congratulations for upgrading/renewing to:

Martha Rupp	KD2FPQ	Extra
Jeffrey Skrzypek	KB2TZL	General
William Wirth	WA2RPF	General

The VEs who made this session possible were:

Conrad Barrick, KC2WRY;

Shane Brady, WB2WPM;

Tomm Dean, KA2NXY;

John Leitten, KA2RFT (on call); and

Jim Starr, N2TFA.

#### CONTEST CALENDAR

#### Start and Finish Contest Title

#### Sponsor's Website



(Control + click to activate a link)

**UHF Spring Sprints** 

NS Weekly Sprint

NS Weekly RTTY Sprint

Apr 29, 2300Z - May 1, 0300Z

Fridays,

Fridays,

0145Z - 0215Z

0230Z - 0300Z

For more information on contests: http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest

www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules/

www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter rules.htm www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter rules.htm

www.contestvintage.beepworld.it

http://wab.intermip.net/Contests.php

http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints

www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara dpx rules.html

http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints

http://uska.ch/amateurfunkpraxis/contest/info-kw

www.bartg.org.uk

http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints

www.ncccsprint.com www.ncccsprint.com





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#### SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Full information at: <a href="http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations">http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations</a>

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		American Journal of PIIRIC
04/01/2015	K0L	Lunar Eclipse
04/01/2015	K0N	OzarkCon
04/03/2015	W5CCH	National Public Health Week
04/04/2015	W0W	Honoring WWII Code-Talkers and Southern Mississippi Pow Wo
04/04/2015	K5I	Magnolia DX Association Mississippi QSO Party
04/04/2015	K5MDX	Magnolia DX Association Mississippi QSO Party
04/04/2015	K5P	Magnolia DX Association Mississippi QSO Party
04/04/2015	K5S	Magnolia DX Association Mississippi QSO Party
04/04/2015	K5M	Magnolia DX Association Mississippi QSO Party Special Event
04/08/2015	N3S	150th Anniversary of the Surrender at Appomattox
04/10/2015	AC4RC	68th annual North Carolina Azalea Festival
04/10/2015	W4S	Venice Sharks Tooth Festival
04/11/2015	NI6IW	Operation Frequent Wind Commemoration Special Event
04/11/2015	N4N	Silver Springs State Park- Home of the Glass Bottom Boats
04/13/2015	N4P	2015 Preparedness Summit
04/17/2015	W0W	Petal-Southern Miss Pow-Wow
04/18/2015	W5BMC	Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival
04/18/2015	W7ZA	GHARC Birthday Event
04/18/2015	K3SMD	Lincoln 150 Commemoration
04/18/2015	W1N	The Town That Saved Itself 50th Anniversary
04/19/2015	N5M	Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon
04/20/2015	W8S	75th Annual Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival
04/21/2015	W4S	SUN n FUN International Fly-In & Expo
04/24/2015	NN4SA	25th anniversary of Hubble Space Telescope launch
04/25/2015	W9E	225th Anniversary of St Clair County, Illinois
04/25/2015	N9L	Boy Scouts of America Lincoln Trail Hike
04/25/2015	W3D	Ft. Miles Delaware WWII Living History Reenactment
04/25/2015	W5HSV	HSVARC 25th Anniversary
04/25/2015	W8PRC	Parma Radio Club 3rd Annual Earth Day Celebration Operating on Power from the S

#### USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

(control + click to use link)

ARRL MAIN SITE: http://www.arrl.org/home

ARRL ATLANTIC DIV.: <a href="http://www.atldiv.org">http://www.atldiv.org</a>

CONTESTS: http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php

**HAMFESTS:** http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

STARS REFLECTOR: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/

STARS WEBSITE: http://www.wb2elw.net

TELSTAR EDITOR: wb2elw@verizon.net